

Scott Walker
Governor

Kitty Rhoades
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State of Wisconsin

Department of Health Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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July 18, 2014

Mr. Paul Ruesch
U.S. EPA Region 5
Emergency Response Branch #2
77 West Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois USA 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Ruesch;

I am writing to request time-critical U.S. EPA Removal Assistance to address existing human health hazards at the former Wisconsin Die Cast (WDC) industrial site located at 201 W. Oklahoma Avenue in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. This request is based on our review the June 11, 2014 Site Assessment Report.

The information we've reviewed indicates several health hazards typical of abandoned and deteriorating buildings of this age and industrial use. These include the presence of building-related physical hazards, friable asbestos-containing building material, evidence of unknown wastes in drums and containers, chlorinated solvents in soil, peeling paint likely containing lead, and reports of PCBs in indoor wipe samples.

Each of these physical and chemical conditions represents a health hazard to anyone entering the building without proper preparation in terms of personal protective equipment and hazard awareness. It is clear from photographic evidence of the building and reports from field staff that there is frequent and ongoing unauthorized entry, loitering, and vandalism at the property. I expect that these people are exposed to the environmental health physical and chemical hazards noted above.

On the basis of the ongoing problems with permanently securing the building, the presence of numerous toxic waste materials and physical hazards, and its location near residential areas, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services concludes that this site poses a human health hazard to nearby residents. This conclusion forms the basis of our request for U.S. EPA Removal Assistance.

Please contact me to discuss any questions or concerns you may have with our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Thiboldeaux".

Robert Thiboldeaux, PhD
Senior Toxicologist
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
608-267-6844

e-copy: Paul Biedrzycki, City of Milwaukee Health Department
 Lindor Schmidt, City of Milwaukee Health Department
 Linda Michalets, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 Karen Dettmer, City of Milwaukee Redevelopment Authority